

CENTER FOR NEUROCHEMISTRY

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August 5, 1993

Dr. Donald Ford
Council for Tobacco Research, Inc. U.S.A.
900 3rd Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Don:

This letter is about possible support by the Council for Tobacco Research for the activities of the Inter-American Cooperation Committee. About four years ago the American Society for Neurochemistry established this Committee, and appointed me to chair it and organize its activities. Over the past two years the Society contributed a modest amount (\$6,000) to support the Committee. The needs and the program of the Committee are circulated in a newsletter to the members of the Society, and I have contacted a fair number of scientists in Mexico and South America about what their needs would be.

We try to help in a modest way, and try to make sure that whatever we do is useful to a number of people. This year, for example, we paid the subscription costs of Current Contents - on a disk with abstracts - to two libraries, one in Brazil, and one in Argentina (Cordoba); paid for a few essential books for a library in Venezuela; and paid the shipping fee for a scintillation counter donated in Canada and given to a laboratory in Mexico. Each of these four items cost about \$1,000. They were greatly appreciated by the institutions receiving them, and each is now useful to a significant number of researchers, and represents a moral boost as well.

We have offers of donations of various pieces of equipment and of library supplies such as books and journals, including Current Contents disks, that we could ship if we had the funds. Some help has been offered by the receiving countries, such as Chile and Argentina - that is, if we paid for shipping costs to New York, they would contribute the rest.

Donated equipment and library subscriptions are one part of the program. We had a request for \$200 dollars each for five postdoctoral workers in Brazil (Porto Alegre) who lost their fellowships for a few months, and to possibly to support the side-trip of an American lecturer, who teaches

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suitable techniques and has support for parts of his trip. We also had a request to pay for trips of South Americans who are offered a few months' stay and a learning possibility at a U.S. lab that can fund the stay, but not the travel.

These examples perhaps show that one can achieve significant help with even modest means. I would like to request funds that would in part cover travel expenses of South American scientists who are now isolated to neurochemical meetings in the North, and cover travel of visiting scientists from the North lecturing or teaching in South America. This would be encouragement for the talented scientists - it would increase their support at home, and bring them up to date on new approaches and new thinking. Any amount of support would be greatly appreciated - we have no overhead or administrative costs. Funds could be sent to the Treasurer of the American Society for Neurochemistry, earmarked for the use of the Inter-American Cooperation Committee.

Sincerely,



Abel Lajtha, Ph.D.
Chair
Inter-American Cooperation
Committee

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